

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL: RACISM AND POVERTY 50 YEARS AFTER THE KERNER REPORT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2018*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, 1968 was a watershed year in our nation's history. That year saw the deadliest period of the Vietnam War and the peak of protests against that conflict. It saw the passage of the Fair Housing Act but the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. 1968 saw President Johnson announce that he would not run for a second term and Richard Nixon elected to succeed him.

In the midst of that tumultuous year, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Kerner Commission, issued its report examining the cause of riots and unrest that had occurred in inner cities and communities of color around the country.

After visiting those cities, interviewing witnesses, and consulting with experts, the Kerner Commission submitted its findings to President Johnson. That groundbreaking report remains important five decades later, not only as an historical document, but also because it describes the same issues of race that we struggle with today and how we can overcome them.

The Kerner Commission's report identified twelve grievances that were shared in the communities of color where the unrest had taken place. Among these were lack of economic opportunity, discrimination in the administration of justice, and inadequacy of education, housing, and social welfare programs.

These same problems persist today.

Employment: In 2018, the unemployment rate for African-Americans is 7.7 percent, compared to just 4.1 percent overall, and black workers made 83 cents on the dollar compared to white workers.

Housing: only 41 percent of black households own their home, virtually the same as 1968, while over 70 percent of white families own their homes.

Education: schools are more segregated now than they were thirty years ago, and blacks are half as likely as whites to have a college degree.

Justice: blacks are incarcerated at a rate of 3.5 times higher than whites.

So we now find ourselves in the same situation as the one described in the Kerner report 50 years ago: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

Fortunately, the Kerner report also described a path to reverse the trend of racial division. It called for "the realization of common opportunities for all within a single society" that requires "a commitment to national action—compassionate, massive and sustained, backed by the resources of the most powerful

and the richest nation on this earth. From every American it will require new attitudes, new understanding, and, above all, new will."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus who embody the commitment to national action and the new will that the Kerner Commission called for 50 years ago.

## HONORING CHRIS SMITH

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative HUFFMAN rise today to honor Chris Smith in celebration of his 40 years as a reporter and columnist for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Smith grew up in Riverside, California where he attended Chemawa Junior High School and Ramona High School. He graduated from San Jose State University, where he earned a degree in reporting and editing. After graduation, he worked as a reporter for the Press-Enterprise in Riverside, California and the weekly Independent Coast Observer in Gualala and The Sea Ranch in Northern California.

He first joined The Press Democrat as a correspondent in Fort Bragg and Mendocino, reporting on the pulse of Mendocino County. In 2002, he became a full-time columnist and since then has kept Sonoma County residents in tune with our region. Mr. Smith writes of the good people do for one another—the sculpture Patrick Amiot created for Carla Filgas, wife of the late Denny Martin; the delegation from Ichikikushikino, Japan who came to support their sister city of Santa Rosa after the fires; members of Threshold Choirs, who packed boxes of heirlooms and other items of personal significance for victims of the fires.

Mr. Smith is also active in our veterans community. For the last several years he has hosted and emceed an annual event honoring Pearl Harbor veterans. When support beams from the Twin Towers were brought to Sonoma County as a permanent memorial to 9/11, he was instrumental in publicizing the associated events to honor the people who lost their lives.

Mr. Smith is married to Diane Peterson, a fellow Press Democrat writer who covers food and music. According to Mr. Smith, he "lives primarily to sustain and amuse Betty, an Australian shepherd."

Mr. Speaker, two words come to mind when thinking of Chris Smith—patriotic and compassionate. He is truly dedicated to serving our region with his strong, community-focused reporting. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

## IN HONOR OF RICHARD "DICK" MORRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a dedicated public servant, Richard Morris, at the time of his retirement, for his lifelong career in service of the residents of East Lyme, CT. As town fire marshal for the past 27 years, Dick has become an institution in the community, and his commitment and leadership will not be forgotten.

Dick's first foray into firefighting came as a teenager, when he began volunteering with the Niantic Fire Department. This general interest eventually became a professional career for Dick and in 1986, he became fire inspector. Over the years, Dick climbed the ladder to deputy fire marshal, assistant fire chief, and finally fire marshal in 1991. In this role he also served as emergency management director for the town, guiding residents through difficult situations, including storms and power outages.

In addition to being fire marshal, Dick is also Chairman of the board for the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and serves as the town's harbormaster. In that position he advocated at the state and federal level for policies and funding to upgrade Connecticut's homeland security and improve training for first responders. Previously he was President of the Connecticut chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

The town of East Lyme has been lucky to have Dick and I'm confident he will find new ways to contribute to the community for years to come. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing him a happy retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO SENIOR CHIEF HARRY OLIVER

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2018*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time today to honor Harry Oliver, also known by his rank as Senior Chief, an exemplary constituent who I am immensely proud to represent. Mr. Oliver is retiring for the second time, after serving in the United States Navy for 23 years and then serving our nation's youth for another 20 years. Mr. Oliver is retiring as a teacher and NJROTC instructor for Santa Ana High School, as well as carrying his Senior Chief military rank. Though his teaching journey is coming to an end, the impact he has made will live on forever.

Mr. Oliver is a teacher in every sense of the word. He carries the qualities that every teacher should strive for—dedication, genuine interest, and being a role model for all his students. His time in the Navy unearthed his passion for guiding future generations as a Company Commander, teaching Damage Control

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